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Chairman: Ms. Wensley ..... (Australia)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

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1. **Mr. Skjønsberg** (Norway) said that Norway remained a strong supporter of the war crimes tribunals as they entered a crucial phase. The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda had handed down the first judgement ever rendered by an international court on the crime of genocide. The work and experience of the International Tribunals represented important stepping stones towards the establishment of the International Criminal Court. The allocation of financial resources was essential.

2. Regarding the procedures for budget approval, his delegation commended the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) for the excellent reports prepared in spite of time pressure (A/54/645 and A/54/646 and Add.1) and looked forward to receiving the Expert Group report evaluating the effective operation and functioning of the Tribunals as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/212. Norway agreed with the Advisory Committee that that report should be submitted to the Tribunals for their comments, which should state in particular which of the recommendations were being or were to be implemented and the reasons for delayed implementation in other cases.

3. His delegation was concerned about the administrative difficulties the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda had encountered and had followed closely the efforts to improve working conditions in Arusha and Kigali. The Registrar had succeeded in improving administrative procedures over the last year and had completed construction of a third courtroom, but there were still delays in the judicial work. The pace of trial proceedings needed to be expedited to cope with the increasing volume of work and to reduce detention time. The need for a better organized and more supportive court management system was urgent. The Advisory Committee's recommendation for an appropriation of $86.2 million gross represented a reduction of $1.7 million gross from the Secretary-General's proposal. Although the reduction seemed justified, his delegation would like the Secretariat's comments as to whether it could cause further delays in judicial work. In that regard the need for additional posts would be hard to evaluate until the Tribunal had considerably reduced the vacancy rate.

4. The International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia had developed into an efficient, operating court, bringing to justice those whose presence would impede the establishment of civil society in the former Yugoslavia. Noting that the Advisory Committee's recommendation for an appropriation of $106.1 million gross for the year 2000 represented a reduction of $4.5 million gross from the Secretary-General's proposal and entailed a long list of post reductions, his delegation would like to ask the Secretariat whether the reductions might adversely affect the future work of the Tribunal.

5. **Mr. Sial** (Pakistan) said that adequate financing was essential for the effective functioning of the International Tribunals. While his delegation regretted the absence of the report of the Expert Group, it seemed to have no bearing on financing and that the budget issues could be resolved by the end of the year. However, he would appreciate guidance on that point from the Advisory Committee.

6. With regard to the question of the survivors' lump sum benefit for judges of the International Tribunals, the Advisory Committee had recommended option 1, involving a minimum of one month's base salary, as opposed to option 2, involving a minimum of three months' base salary. However, option 1 was apparently not fully in line with the terms and conditions established for judges of the International Court of Justice, as required by the statutes of the International Tribunals. The Advisory Committee had requested but had not received information on the financial

implications of options 1 and 2. His delegation would appreciate guidance on the question.

7. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller) said that questions had been raised earlier concerning gratis personnel. Subsequent to the alleged ethnic cleansing of Kosovar Albanians in early 1999, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia had intensified and expanded its activities. The discovery of mass graves had revealed the urgent need for more resources to document the crime scenes before evidence became tainted or lost. The Secretary-General had stated his intention to use gratis forensic crime personnel as victim identification personnel with expert-on-mission status. Related personnel expense had been borne by the donors. Some 375 such personnel had contributed to the forensic exhumation project, and the work on-site had been completed by the end of October.

8. The main reasons for resource growth in 2000 were the conversion of the exhumation project in Bosnia and Herzegovina from extrabudgetary resources to the assessed budget; the increased scope of investigation activity in Kosovo, including exhumations, scheduled for 2000; the proposed addition of temporary posts to support the higher level of investigation; and the proposed increase in human resources to support the work of the trial chambers. An increase of 98 posts had been proposed, 41 directly related to the higher level of investigation activity and 17 to support services. A detailed breakdown could be found in annex II to the Secretary-General's report on the financing of the Tribunal (A/54/518).

9. Regarding voluntary contributions and vacancy rates, by 31 October 1999, $29 million had been received in voluntary contributions, of which $18.2 million had been spent. The vacancy rate as at 23 November 1999 had been 7.5 per cent. Further information was available in the annexes to the Secretary-General's (A/54/518) and the Advisory Committee's (A/54/645) reports.

10. With respect to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, in early 1999 the Office of International Oversight Services (OIOS) had found that the Tribunal had satisfactorily implemented a number of its recommendations and had made other improvements in financial management and in filling vacancies, but that further efforts were needed to strengthen controls for management of assets and procurement (A/54/393, paras. 70-71).

11. Information on voluntary contributions was to be found in annex VI to the Secretary-General's report on the financing of the Tribunal for Rwanda (A/54/521). To date a total of $5,980,000 had been spent, chiefly on investigation activities, transport of witnesses and the witness protection programme; some funds had been used to enhance the communication infrastructure.

12. The overall vacancy rate was currently 19.3 per cent, reflecting a rate of 24.8 per cent for Professional posts and 15.7 per cent for General Service and other categories. Between January and August 1999, 100 vacant posts had been filled. Annex III to the Secretary-General's report (A/54/521) provided a monthly breakdown of the vacancy rate.

13. With regard to the delay in the submission of the Secretary-General's reports on the financing of the Tribunals, not all the information from the Tribunals themselves had been available in time to permit adherence to the 1 October deadline. The following year the Secretariat would begin the process earlier.

14. Information about the financial implications of the two options for survivor's benefits for the judges of the Tribunals would be made available to the Fifth Committee in informals.

15. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), responding to questions and comments, said that the Advisory Committee had asked the Secretary-General to submit the Expert Group's report on the Tribunals to the General Assembly.

16. With regard to the statement made by the President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda to the General Assembly on 8 November 1999, he would caution against drawing hasty conclusions before the report of the Expert Group was submitted to the General Assembly and commented upon by the Advisory Committee.

17. As to whether the Expert Group report would have an impact on the estimates before the Committee, the effect of implementation of the Expert Group's recommendations for enhancing efficiency in the operations of the Tribunals would be felt on a long-term basis; accordingly it would be difficult to use the report to adjust those estimates.

18. **Mr. Sial** (Pakistan) agreed that the Expert Group report should be submitted to the Tribunals for their comments and subsequently considered by the Fifth

Committee during its consideration of the next budget submission for the Tribunals. He understood that the report was now being translated; if the idea was acceptable to the Committee, it might be possible to have it distributed in the original language as a non-paper. In any event, the absence of the report should not prevent the Committee from taking a decision on the financing of the two Tribunals.

19. **Mr. Odaga-Jalomayo** (Uganda) said that his delegation supported the views just expressed by the representative of Pakistan.

Agenda item 121: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (*continued*)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/54/L.36 concerning agenda item 48 (continued) (A/C.5/54/38)

20. **The Chairman** proposed that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly the following draft decision:

"*The General Assembly*,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/54/L.36 (A/C.5/54/38) and *endorses* the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions thereon (A/54/659);

"2. *Emphasizes* that the Mission shall be provided with all resources needed for the full implementation of its mandate;

"3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, should the extrabudgetary resources for the Mission become insufficient, to report to the General Assembly for further action."

21. **Mr. Acakpo-Satshivi** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the draft decision should incorporate the recommendation contained in paragraph 28 of the Secretary-General's statement of programme budget implications, which read:

"... should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/54/L.36, the requirements of $10,353,200 ($9,173,100 for MICAH and $1,180,100 for MICIVIH) would be charged against the provision of $90,387,200 for special political missions requested in section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001."

22. **The Chairman** said that she would take it that the Committee wishes to adopt the draft decision, as orally revised.

23. *It was so decided.*

Projects to be funded from the resources proposed under section 33 (Development Account) (A/54/7/Add.8; A/C.5/54/37)

International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (A/54/6/Rev.1/Add.1 and A/54/7/Add.6)

Natural disaster mitigation (A/53/641; A/54/7)

Request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (A/C.5/54/26)

Analysis of the organizational structure and the personnel and technical resources of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the United Nations Secretariat (A/54/520 and A/54/657)

24. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's recommendations on the five topics, said that the Secretary-General, in his report (A/C.5/54/37), had submitted projects to be funded from the estimate of $13,065,000 to be approved by the General Assembly under section 33 (Development Account) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. In future the report should be submitted much earlier to facilitate review of the projects and related costs by the appropriate bodies. The Advisory Committee, in its related report (A/54/7/Add.8), commended the Secretariat for the clarity and quality of the Secretary-General's report, agreed with the Secretary-General's proposal, and outlined the roles of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, ACABQ and the Second Committee in future reviews of reports on Development Account projects.

25. In its report on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC) (A/54/7/Add.6), the Advisory Committee noted that the estimate for ITC had been submitted in accordance with the new procedure approved by the General Assembly in its decision

53/411 B. The contribution of the United Nations to the ITC budget for 2000-2001 amounted to $19,980,000 (Sw F 29.2 million). The Advisory Committee recommended approval of that amount, including the request for two new P-4 posts. However, no agreement had been reached between the United Nations and the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the reclassification of two P-3 posts to the P-4 level and one P-2 post to the P-3 level, as proposed by ITC. The Advisory Committee had expressed serious reservations about the implications of the situation. There was no proposal from the Secretary-General to reclassify the posts. The issue was not the number and grade of the posts but a question of principle that needed to be addressed in order to ensure that the new arrangement for formulating and reviewing the ITC budget by the parent organizations was not adversely affected. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended that the General Assembly should take no action on the three reclassifications and that the secretariats of the United Nations and WTO should review the matter, bearing in mind the expressed needs of ITC. The results of the review should be reflected in the first performance report for the biennium 2000-2001.

26. The views and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on natural disaster mitigation could be found in paragraphs VI.31 and VI.32 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (A/54/7).

27. The Secretary-General had transmitted to the General Assembly a recommendation by the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) for a $213,000 subvention from the regular budget in accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/148 H. Since the amount was already included in section 4 of the proposed programme budget for 2000-2001, the Advisory Committee recommended approval of the Secretary-General's proposal contained in paragraph 5 of his report (A/C.5/54/26)

28. The issues raised in the report of the Secretary-General on the resources of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section (A/54/520) had already been brought to the attention of the General Assembly by the Advisory Committee in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 (A/52/7/Rev.1) and again in its first report for the biennium 2000-2001 (A/54/7), but no action had been taken thus far by the Secretariat to address those concerns. The Advisory Committee had concluded that the matter had been procedurally mishandled and that there was a lack of coordination between Secretariat units. In its report (A/54/657), the Advisory Committee therefore recommended that the Secretariat should address its concerns, together with the administrative and financial issues raised in the Secretary-General's report (A/54/520), and should submit another report thereon to the General Assembly at its resumed fifty-fourth session, at which time the Advisory Committee would review the matter.

29. **Mr. Desai** (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on projects to be funded from the resources proposed under section 33 (Development Account) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (A/C.5/54/37), said that the level proposed for the Development Account was $13,065,000, as in the current biennium. The General Assembly, in its resolutions 53/220 A and 53/220 B, had approved seven projects for the first tranche on an ad hoc and one-time-only basis. In resolution 54/15 the General Assembly had decided to establish a special multi-year account for supplementary development activities, which had made it possible to formulate 16 new proposals for the second tranche, described in the report.

30. In formulating the projects the Secretariat had been guided by the criteria in paragraph 5 of resolution 53/220 A and the recommendations in the Advisory Committee's report on the utilization of the Development Account (A/54/7/Add.4). The projects aimed at capacity-building with multiplier and demonstrative effects in developing countries; promotion of interregional, regional and subregional cooperation; and use of human and technical resources available in developing countries.

31. The 16 proposals had been selected after joint review from a much larger pool of proposals submitted by entities represented on the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs. In contrast to the first tranche, which had focused on networking for development, the present set of proposals addressed a broad range of development issues, including: capacity-building in planning and management of natural resources and sustainable resource-based development; statistical capacity development at the regional level; equalization of opportunities for person

with disabilities; integration of countries into the multilateral trading system; debt sustainability analysis; and promotion of gender equality in Africa. In the present tranche particular emphasis was given to the economic and social needs of Africa, a major priority of the medium-term plan.

32. Several of the projects were to be undertaken jointly by two or more entities represented on the Executive Committee. Project F, for example, was to be a joint project of the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. In other cases the entity involved was expected to cooperate closely with the relevant regional commission and to establish collaborative links with UNDP country offices. All projects would be in full compliance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and hence would be administered by the regular budget entities according to established procedures.

33. The Secretariat was cognizant of the General Assembly's request that it should keep the implementation of the projects under review and report on their outcomes. An annual report on the first year of operation of the Development Account would be submitted to the Advisory Committee and the General Assembly in May 2001. A central monitoring and evaluation system was being established to support the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs as programme manager of the Account.

34. **Mr. Barnwell** (Guyana), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that he regretted the inordinate delay in the submission of the Secretary-General's report on projects to be funded from the Development Account (A/C.5/54/37), as a result of which the competent expert bodies, such as the Committee for Programme and Coordination, had been unable to examine the programme narrative of section 33. That represented a contravention of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (PPBME Rules). In future, detailed proposals should be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination for its consideration and recommendations. All General Assembly resolutions on the Development Account had emphasized that section 33 should be subject to the regulations and rules of the Organization. Therefore, the proposed time limits on the projects should not set a precedent for other budget sections. Moreover, the second performance report for the biennium 1998-1999 had not indicated the savings resulting from the implementation of efficiency measures. The Secretariat should provide that information to facilitate informal consultations on section 33.

35. He also regretted the late submission of the proposed programme budget of the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (A/54/6/Rev.1/Add.1), as a result of which the Committee had been deprived of the expert views of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the programme narrative. In future that budget fascicle should be issued on time, in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation. Lastly, he asked the Secretariat to clarify the issues raised in paragraph 3 of the report of the Advisory Committee (A/54/7/Add.8).

36. **Mr. Herrera** (Mexico) said that he shared the concerns expressed by the Guyanese delegation about the late issuance of the report on projects to be funded from the Development Account. While he did not question the importance of African development, he stressed that activities in Africa should not be carried out at the expense of activities in other regions. He was very disappointed to note that, of the projects listed in document A/C.5/54/37, only one was for Latin America and the Caribbean. It was clear that that part of the world was not a priority for the Organization.

37. **Mr. Moktefi** (Algeria) said that he fully supported the views expressed by the representative of Guyana on the Development Account. With respect to the analysis of the organizational structure and personnel and technical resources of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the United Nations (A/54/520), paragraph 29 clearly indicated that the Section's workload would increase substantially and that the Section would have to find new ways to meet its goals. Sufficient resources must be provided to underpin the Organization's work with civil society and non-governmental organizations. However, no specific budget proposals had been included in the document. He asked why that was so, particularly since the Advisory Committee had requested such proposals previously in its first report on the programme budget for 1998-1999 (A/52/7).

38. **Ms. Sun Minqin** (China) said that she fully endorsed the comments of the Algerian delegation on the Non-Governmental Organizations Section. According to the report of the Secretary-General, the Section's workload was increasing, particularly as the number of meetings originally forecast for 2000-2001 had already doubled. The Section must therefore be provided with adequate resources to enable it to accommodate its increasing workload.

39. **Mr. Sial** (Pakistan) said that he associated himself with the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and looked forward to receiving information on the issues raised. In paragraph 3 of its resolution 53/220 A, the General Assembly had stressed that, in the implementation of projects funded from the Development Account, particular attention should be given to the utilization of technical, human and other resources available in the developing countries. He asked whether that provision would be taken into account if the proposals contained in document A/C.5/54/37 were implemented.

40. In a number of resolutions on the Development Account, the General Assembly had emphasized that projects to be funded from the Account must be formulated and implemented in full conformity with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation and the Financial Regulations and Rules of the Organization. However, the inclusion of time limits in all the projects proposed was not in conformity with those regulations and rules. In its resolution 53/220 B, the General Assembly had decided that the anticipated duration of the projects approved by that resolution should not be used as a precedent for setting time limits. Since that provision was very clear, he wondered why time limits had been included in the proposals contained in document A/C.5/54/37.

41. **Mr. Abdallah** (Sudan) said that the question of the personnel and technical resources requirements of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Secretariat, as set forth in document A/54/657, had been discussed in informal consultations. On that occasion a number of delegations, including his own, had expressed extreme concern about the situation faced by the Section and the need to provide it with immediate support. It was also stated in the report of the Advisory Committee that there had been an increase in the volume of work of the Section. He noted with concern the comment in the report that the matter had been procedurally mishandled by the Secretariat. He expressed his full agreement with the opinion voiced by the representatives of Algeria and China concerning the need to provide support to the Section in order to enable it to perform its functions.

42. **Mr. Repasch** (United States of America) said that, in document A/C.5/54/37, the Secretariat had proposed a wide range of projects to fulfil the intent of the Development Account. While he appreciated the manner in which the projects were presented, he was concerned about the need for ways to measure progress towards the goals stated in the document. That view was shared by the Advisory Committee and the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs (A/54/7/Add.8, para. 4). Clear measures must be established before the projects were undertaken so that Member States would know if and when goals had been achieved. He asked the Secretariat to explain how that would be done. He was also concerned about the fact that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was to carry out the last four projects listed in the document. Management irregularities had reduced the capacity of UNCTAD to manage its programme of work effectively. The Secretary-General should take immediate action to correct those problems so that UNCTAD could carry out such projects in full compliance with the regulations and rules of the Organization.

43. In its report on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (A/54/7/Add.6), the Advisory Committee accepted the budget proposals, with the exception of the post reclassifications proposed in paragraph 11B.5 of document A/54/6/Rev.1/Add.1. Since the United States delegation did not support any increase in the Organization's budget, it could not accept the proposed 1.3-per-cent increase in the International Trade Centre (ITC) budget. Like all other United Nations organizations, ITC should take efficiency measures to enable it to operate within the current level of resources.

44. Likewise, his delegation did not support the proposed subvention to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for natural disaster mitigation. The arrangement agreed upon for the current biennium had been temporary, as was the proposed arrangement for the coming biennium. His delegation could not accept the establishment of a permanent arrangement through a succession of

temporary arrangements. UNDP had already had ample opportunity to find other sources of funding for those activities. Similarly, the subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) had been a temporary arrangement. He regretted that the efforts of UNIDIR to find other sources of income had not been fruitful; however, if other resources were not available, UNIDIR must review its programme of work and sources of financing. His delegation opposed the provision of a subvention to UNIDIR since it was inappropriate to use United Nations resources to subsidize other organizations from the regular budget. However, if other delegations felt that it was needed again on a temporary basis, the funds should be provided under the budget section on technical cooperation, which was intended to fund temporary activities of that nature. Otherwise, the subvention could become a permanent part of the budget. Lastly, he agreed with the Advisory Committee's comments on the Non-Governmental Organizations Section, and looked forward to receiving further information from the Secretariat in response to the Advisory Committee's concerns.

45. **Ms. Buergo Rodríguez** (Cuba) said that she supported the views expressed on behalf of the Group of 77 and China with respect to section 33 of the proposed programme budget. Since the General Assembly had not yet taken a decision on performance indicators, the criteria set out by the General Assembly in its resolutions 53/220 A and B should be used to measure the performance of the projects. The Secretariat's proposal of 16 projects to be carried out in the coming biennium should have been submitted earlier so that the Second Committee could have considered it as well. In future, recommendations concerning the programme aspects of proposed projects should be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination for comment before they were submitted to the General Assembly.

46. She recognized the role of UNCTAD as the focal point for trade and development activities, and welcomed the projects it was to carry out on relevant topics. She agreed with the comments of the Guyanese delegation regarding ITC, and reaffirmed her delegation's support for the provision of a subvention to UNIDIR, in accordance with General Assembly decisions on the subject. With respect to the Non-Governmental Organizations Section, she shared the views expressed by the representatives of Algeria, China and Sudan, and endorsed the Advisory Committee's comments on the significant increase in the Section's workload. However, she was concerned about the late submission of the Secretary-General's report on the subject, which had made it impossible for the Third Committee to consider it. She was also concerned to note that the report lacked specific budget proposals, even though it had been submitted under agenda item 121. She wondered why the report contained no proposals for action by the General Assembly to solve the problems it described.

47. **Mr. Adam** (Israel) recalled that, on a number of occasions, the Secretary-General had stressed the importance of partnership between the United Nations and civil society. The growing number of non-governmental organizations seeking consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and the enormous workload of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section showed that a crucial decision must be made. The General Assembly must either recognize the important role of civil society in the Organization's work by providing the Section with adequate resources, or decide that the United Nations should change its attitude towards such organizations and reverse the democratic trend that currently characterized its work. He regretted that the relevant report had been submitted late and that it lacked substantive recommendations for immediate action to address the situation it described.

48. **Mr. Paredes** (Colombia) said that he supported the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and that he shared the Mexican delegation's disappointment concerning the low priority given to Latin America and the Caribbean in the formulation of proposals on the use of Development Account resources. He supported the Advisory Committee's comments on the need to allocate adequate resources to the Non-Governmental Organizations Section.

49. **Mr. Sareva** (Finland), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the projects proposed under section 33 fully complied with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, since the time limits specified would apply to programmes, not projects. He agreed with the Advisory Committee (A/54/7/Add.8, para. 4) that the support provided by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in the elaboration and implementation of the projects in

question should not lead to the establishment of a structure within the Department in that regard. Moreover, he agreed with the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs on the need to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation functions so as better to measure the results achieved by the projects funded from the Development Account.

50. **Mr. Medina** (Morocco) said that he supported the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The late submission of documentation was a serious problem, especially for small delegations, and the Secretariat should take steps to remedy the situation. He reiterated his delegation's support for the activities of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section and the need to provide it with adequate resources to enable it to handle its workload and carry out its mandate effectively.

51. **Ms. Petrosini** (Venezuela) said that she associated herself with the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. She regretted the late submission of document A/C.5/54/37 and the unequal geographical distribution of the projects proposed in that document. Only one project, representing less than 3 per cent of the total resources available under section 33, was being proposed for Latin America and the Caribbean. She agreed with the Advisory Committee that the proposal should have been submitted to the Second Committee for comments on the substance of the projects, since that would have been useful for the Fifth Committee's analysis of the proposals.

52. **Mr. Den Hartog** (Brazil) said that his delegation wished to align itself with the statement made by the representative of Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. It regretted the late issuance of the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/C.5/54/37, which had prevented delegations from giving adequate consideration to the projects to be funded from the resources proposed under section 33. It appeared, however, at first glance that only one of the 16 projects proposed, project I, would benefit his own region. While he supported the priority given to development in Africa, he considered that a more balanced approach should have been adopted with respect to the needs of other regions.

53. **Mr. Gallardo** (Bolivia), said that he agreed with previous speakers that the proposals made in the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/C.5/54/37 lacked geographical equity.

54. **Mr. Toscano** (Ecuador) said that his delegation fully endorsed the statement made by the representative of Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. It deeply regretted the late issuance of the Secretary-General's report. Having examined the proposals made in the report, he considered that the Latin American and Caribbean region had not been treated on the same footing as the other regions. It also needed cooperation for development, and there must be a more balanced approach to the distribution of the resources proposed under section 33. The usefulness of projects N and O was not clear to him.

55. **Mr. Desai** (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that the submission of detailed proposals for the use of the resources proposed under section 33 of the proposed programme budget had been delayed pending the approval by the General Assembly of the modalities for operating the Development Account, which had taken place only on 29 October 1999. The Secretary-General had thus been somewhat constrained with regard to the timing of the issuance of his report. However, he agreed that future proposals should be submitted first to CPC and then to ACABQ for their comments on the programmatic and financial aspects, respectively, in line with established practice and in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation. He wished to assure the Committee that the Secretariat had sought to ensure that all elements of the project proposals were in conformity with the mandates of the entities that were to implement them.

56. It was not true to say that only project I, which was to be executed by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, would benefit that region. Many of the activities planned under the non-region-specific projects, including projects H, M, N, O and P, would take place in the region. In monitoring and evaluating the outcomes of the projects, the Secretariat would take into account the criterion of geographical balance.

57. The promotion of South-South cooperation had been a priority during the development of the projects. Thus, project D (Capacity-building in decision-making for sustainable development) would result in the establishment and enhancement of institutional linkages and information flows between key

sustainable development stakeholder organizations in Barbados and Maldives. The utilization of human and technical resources from developing regions was also an important aspect of the projects, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/220.

58. The projects proposed were not subject to time limits or sunset clauses, but neither would they go on indefinitely. The Secretariat had simply specified their anticipated duration. He agreed that there was a need to determine clear criteria for assessing the impact of the projects in the developing regions, taking the criteria established in General Assembly resolution 53/220 as a starting point.

59. **Mr. Halbwachs** (Controller) recalled that, in its decision 53/411 B, the General Assembly had endorsed revised budgetary arrangements with regard to the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC). Clearly, there was a need for better coordination between the United Nations and WTO in order to ensure that, in future, the proposed programme budget of ITC was made available for review in a timely fashion. The proposed resource growth of 1.3 per cent, which was largely related to the establishment of two posts at the P-4 level, reflected the priority attached to the activities of ITC. The United Nations Secretariat had opposed the reclassification of two P-3 posts to the P-4 level and one P-2 post to the P-3 level because of the need to maintain entry-level posts and in keeping with its policy of curbing inflation of the grade structure. However, it intended to review the matter in accordance with the recommendation of ACABQ, should that recommendation be approved by the General Assembly.

60. Article 7 of the statute of UNIDIR provided for the funding of the Institute through a subvention from the regular budget of the United Nations. The arrangement was not a temporary one.

61. The resource requirements of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Secretariat had been reviewed in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. In addition, an analysis of the organizational structure and the personnel and technical resources of the Section had been provided in document A/54/520 pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/34. The Secretariat would examine the concerns expressed by ACABQ, as well as the administrative and financial issues raised in document A/54/520, and submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its resumed fifty-fourth session in accordance with the recommendation contained in paragraph 6 of the related report of ACABQ (A/54/657), provided that that recommendation was approved by the Assembly.

62. **Ms. Castellanos González** (Guatemala) said that her delegation wished to associate itself with the statement made by the representative of Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. It regretted the late issuance of much of the documentation before the Committee, which had increased the already onerous burden of work of small delegations such as her own. While she welcomed the clarifications provided by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs with regard to the projects to be funded from the resources requested under section 33 of the proposed programme budget, she was not convinced that the Secretariat had taken fully into account the needs of the Latin American and Caribbean region, where the process of development was hampered by a number of problems, including frequent natural disasters.

63. **Mr. Jara** (Chile) said that his delegation fully endorsed the statement made by the representative of Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The explanation provided by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs for the late issuance of the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/C.5/54/37 was not entirely satisfactory. The Development Account was a priority for his delegation, and it trusted that the Secretariat would ensure in future that all documentation would be issued in a timely fashion. He regretted that the report of the Secretary-General did not contain a breakdown of the allocation of resources by region, and he wished to know what proportion of those resources had been earmarked for activities to be undertaken in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

64. **Mr. Sial** (Pakistan) sought clarification regarding paragraph 5 of the report of ACABQ contained in document A/54/7/Add.8, in which it was stated that the Secretary-General would submit a report on initiatives by programme managers to improve productivity in the spring of 2000. The General Assembly had decided in its resolution 54/15 that savings to be achieved as a result of efficiency measures should be identified in the context of budget performance reports. The identification of savings prior to the implementation of

the proposed programme budget was not in conformity with the Organization's budgetary procedures.

65. In paragraph 9 of its report, the Advisory Committee recommended that, in future, a summary of project proposals should be submitted to CPC for its comments on the programmatic aspects. However, in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the PPBME Rules, CPC should be provided with fully detailed proposals on each section of the proposed programme budget. His delegation did not object to the recommendation of ACABQ that project proposals should also be submitted for consideration by the Second Committee. However, the PPBME Rules did not allow for such a step.

66. His delegation did not accept the explanation provided by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs for the late issuance of the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/C.5/54/37.

67. **Mr. Moktefi** (Algeria) said that his delegation remained concerned at the Secretariat's failure to address the administrative and financial issues raised in the report of the Secretary-General on the analysis of the organizational structure and the personnel and technical resources of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the United Nations Secretariat (A/54/520). Specific proposals should have been made within the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 to enable the Section to cope with its increased workload and responsibilities. He noted that the Advisory Committee had drawn attention to those problems in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 (A/52/7/Rev.1).

68. **Mr. Toscano** (Ecuador) said that, while the resources proposed under section 33 were modest, the Secretariat could do more to address the needs of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, otherwise the United Nations risked losing an important opportunity to be an agent for development in the region.

69. **Mr. Sach** (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division), replying to the question posed by the representative of Pakistan, said that, in accordance with the modalities approved by the General Assembly, the report to be issued by the Secretary-General, which was referred to in paragraph 5 of the report of ACABQ contained in document A/54/7/Add.8, would contain only descriptions of productivity improvement initiatives. Any savings achieved would be identified in the second performance report in the autumn of 2000, following completion of the implementation of the initiatives.

70. **Mr. Desai** (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that the purpose of the project proposals was to see how the Development Account could be used for capacity-building in the developing countries and to promote the type of linkages from which all developing countries could benefit. Given the modest size of the Account, the project proposals sought to use available funds in very specific ways for activities that were currently not being carried out on a sufficiently broad scale.

71. In response to the Chilean delegation's request for additional information on the Secretary-General's proposals, it should be made clear that the training programme on addiction rehabilitation and drug prevention in the workplace for Asia and the Pacific (proposal B) would be implemented not only in Asia but also in Latin America and the Caribbean. Four regional exercises would feed into the project on capacity-building and institutional development for equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities (proposal H), which would thus be implemented across various regions, including Latin America. Proposals M, O and P involved numerous activities for Latin America and the Caribbean to be implemented in the first tranche. The projects would be extended to other regions in the second tranche.

72. With regard to the late submission of the project proposals, it had taken more time than anticipated to obtain final approval of the modalities. He agreed with the representative of Pakistan that the rules governing programme planning should be observed in the future.

73. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), in response to the request of the representative of Pakistan for clarification of paragraph 9 of the report of the Advisory Committee contained in document A/54/7/Add.8, said that it had not been the Advisory Committee's intention to contravene the existing rules and regulations which provided that information on project proposals should be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination. The word "summary" in the third sentence of the

paragraph in question should not have been included. What the Advisory Committee meant to say was that project proposals should be submitted to CPC in accordance with the existing rules and regulations and that CPC would consider the proposals in accordance with its mandate. The proposals should then be submitted to the Advisory Committee, which would consider them in accordance with its own mandate.

74. **Mr. Jara** (Chile) said that, while the information which the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs had provided was welcome, it should have been clearly conveyed in the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/54/37). Project proposals were evaluated in the respective capitals of Member States and the Secretariat should therefore provide the information which Governments needed to permit such evaluation.

Agenda item 119: Programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 (*continued*) (A/54/7 Add.3 and A/54/501)

75. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's report contained in document A/54/7/Add.3, said that the Advisory Committee recommended that, on an exceptional basis, the special account should be maintained and the unspent balance retained until all the activities and programmes outlined in the report of the Secretary-General (A/52/898 and Corr.1) had been completed.

76. **Mr. Barnwell** (Guyana), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the States on whose behalf he spoke supported the activities of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), which were of special importance to developing countries. They agreed with the Advisory Committee's recommendation that, on an exceptional basis, the special account of UNCTAD should be maintained and the unspent balance retained until all the activities and programmes outlined in the report of the Secretary-General (A/52/898 and Corr.1) and approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/3 had been completed.

77. **Ms. Buergo Rodríguez** (Cuba) said that the resources must be retained in the special account until all of the Conference's mandated activities had been carried out.

78. **The Chairman** proposed that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly the following draft decision:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Takes note* of the information provided in the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/54/501 and concurs with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions."

79. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 151: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

Draft decision A/C.5/54/L.16

80. **Mr. Humenny** (Ukraine), introducing draft decision A/C.5/54/L.16, said that the draft decision should be considered under agenda item 151 and not under item 151 (b) as indicated on the document. In addition, the reference in the draft text to "all financial contributions of Ukraine to the Organization" should read instead "all financial contributions of the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine to the Organization".

81. **Mr. Vantsevich** (Belarus) said that the omission of the Republic of Belarus from the draft text was a technical error which could be resolved in informal consultations.

82. **Mr. Sareva** (Finland), speaking on behalf of the European Union, requested the Bureau to schedule informal consultations so that members could discuss the matter with representatives of the Secretariat.

83. **Mr. Ekorong A Ndong** (Cameroon) said that his delegation understood the concerns of the delegations of Belarus and Ukraine and was prepared to participate in the informal consultations on the matter, which merited urgent consideration.

84. **Mr. Lozinsky** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation supported the draft decision and would be willing to participate in the informal consultations on the matter.

85. **The Chairman** said that the Committee would take action on the draft decision at a later meeting. In the meantime, the representatives of Belarus and Ukraine should continue their bilateral consultations

with other delegations with a view to reaching an agreement on the draft decision.

Election of a Vice-Chairman

86. **The Chairman** said that, owing to the departure of Ms. Cardoze from the Permanent Mission of Panama, it was necessary for the Committee to appoint a new Vice-Chairman from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. The Group had nominated Ms. Buergo Rodríguez (Cuba) to fill the vacant post. In the absence of any other nomination, she took it that the Committee wished to elect Ms. Buergo Rodríguez (Cuba).

87. *Ms. Buergo Rodríguez (Cuba) was elected Vice-Chairman of the Fifth Committee.*

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.